

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/012302

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-13 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-16 received by this Authority on 05.08.2005 with letter of 04.08.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2, 2/2 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>CLOSEST PRIOR ART:</p> <p>WO 95/08910 A discloses an electrical connector device according to the preamble of claim 1.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 1 differs therefrom by the characterizing features:</p> <p>"The contact elements housed in the housing body about a pressure element on the side facing away from the contact elements of the other device, a plurality of receiving slots for the contact elements being provided in the housing body, and the pressure element or the receiving element being elastic for displacement of the contact elements".</p> <p>The problem to be solved is the following:</p> <p>achieving uniform pressure exertion of the contact elements and thereby keeping the number of components low.</p> <p>INVENTIVE STEP:</p> <p>The subject matter of the application is not suggested by the prior art.</p>			

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

WO 95/08910 A describes a membrane (32 or 60) that serves as a type of return spring.

In order to achieve uniform contact pressure of contact elements on the counter contacts, it is not possible to mount more than two contact elements together by means of one membrane.

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).

Claims 2 to 16 are dependent on claim 1, and therefore also meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).